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## CTG Meeting 14

### 10:30 – 13:30, 8 April 2024

### CTG\_14\_0804 – Meeting Headlines

#### Decision, Discussion and Information Items

##### 1. Previous Meeting's Minutes (For Decision)

The Communications Transition Group (CTG) reviewed the minutes from the CTG 13 meeting and **APPROVED** them as final including minor changes.

##### 2. DCC Update: 4G CH&N Programme (For Information) (**AMBER**)

###### Programme Update

DCC presented an overview of the overall plan for CH&N Transition to 4G Communication Hubs (CHs) and provided updates on its programme risks and issues noting that all areas have a RAG status of Green. DCC advised that Systems Integration Testing (SIT) was progressing well; a defect is currently under review with no impact expected on the overall plan.

###### User Integration Testing Update

DCC presented an update on User Integration Testing (UIT) and highlighted the Joint Industry Plan milestone of 1 April 2024 for DCC to commence the Test Comms Hubs ordering process, noting DCC had started receiving orders from Suppliers. DCC acknowledged the request from test participants for DCC to build in a testing window in UIT-A, and DCC advised they were investigating two possible options including a gateway solution and offering a UIT-A testing window before Initial Pallet Validation go-live. The DCC acknowledged CTG's feedback to be considered as part of the discussions at the Testing Advisory Group (TAG). The DCC confirmed they were presenting the proposed options to the TAG in April, and the TAG Chair agreed to provide an update to CTG in May. The CTG Chair noted TAG's responsibility from a governance perspective and CTG's tracking the overall risk around UIT participation.

###### Initial Pallet Validation Approach Document (IPVAD) Update

DCC presented an update on the Initial Pallet Validation Document Approach (IPVAD) and noted the IPV phase of CH&N will run from 2 December 2024 to 3 February 2025. The DCC noted the intention to establish an IPV Working Group to support the IPV phase, and proposed to present the IPVAD to CTG for review prior to the next CTG meeting in May.

DCC advised the IPVAD presented the reporting and governance mechanisms and entry and exit criteria for IPV and sought CTG's agreement to present CTG as the nominated Sub-Committee for the IPVAD to the SEC Panel for approval.

The CTG **AGREED** with the proposal for CTG to be the nominated Sub-Committee for the IPVAD review, subject to SEC Panel approval.

###### Regulations Update – Phase 2 Consultation

DCC presented an update on the Phase 2 Consultation on transitional and enduring regulatory changes, and noted it is on track to be published by mid-April. DCC noted an intention to facilitate a consultation Webinar the week commencing 29 April 2024, to provide an overview of the changes.

DCC advised the [CH&N Conclusions on SEC Changes for 4G CH Forecasting, Ordering & Delivery Service](#) was published on 5 April 2024.

#### Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS) Progress Update

DCC presented an update on *Intimate Communications Hub Interface Specification (ICHIS)* testing for the existing meter estate, and noted testing was progressing well with 9/13 models successfully completed without WAN/HAN issues identified. DCC noted two models are under investigation due to inconsistent results and there is a two-week delay to planned testing due to sample availability. DCC advised the JIP Milestones to complete testing by June 2024 and conclude engagement on RF Noise by September 2024 are on track.

#### 4G Comms Hub Financing Update

DCC presented an update on 4G Transitional Financing Arrangements and confirmed discussions were progressing with VM02 and Banking Partners to ensure there are no funding issues impacting the supply of 2G/3G meters up to the mass roll out of 4G CHs in 2025.

#### 2/3G to 4G CH Ordering Transition Update

DCC presented an update on the 2/3G Supply Chain Position and noted orders and forecasts supported the rollout of Smart Meters with 2/3G CHs until August 2025, with the assumption stock would be exhausted by end of August. DCC advised they are working directly with Suppliers to complete supply chain health checks, however, DCC requested Suppliers who have not yet shared non-committed forecasts with DCC, to do so by the end of April 2024. DCC highlighted they were engaging with VMO2 to mitigate any risks presented by potential delays in UIT or IPV.

The CTG **NOTED** these updates.

### **3. DCC Update: SMETS 1 End of Life (For Information) (AMBER)**

DCC presented an update on SMETS1 End of Life (EoL) and presented the outcomes from the first SMETS1 EoL Workshop held on 20 March 2024. DCC noted the second SMETS1 EoL Workshop would likely be held in May, however this was contingent on the Request for Information (RFI) being issued and response times.

SECAS presented an update on the RFI process and noted a draft RFI was issued to CTG Members for comment on 4 April 2024, and requested CTG Members provide any comments on the draft by 10 April 2024 to allow the RFI to be issued the same day. SECAS noted the deadline for RFI responses would be 24 April 2024 and SECAS would facilitate the ability for Suppliers to submit responses via a secure portal.

SECAS **AGREED** to exclude MAPS from the RFI as CTG confirmed the questions applied to Suppliers only and **AGREED** to amend draft Question 3 to reflect that members can also use a single figure/period for Premature Replacement Charges.

The CTG **NOTED** the update.

### **4. Actions Log Update (For Information) (GREEN)**

The CTG **NOTED** the actions log update and **AGREED** to close all actions marked as Propose to Close, including action CTG 12/02 whereby the CTG agreed the development of a DCC Nominated Contact List is broader than the CTG as it affects Sub-Committees and the SEC Panel.

## 5. DESNZ Consultation ‘Further Engagement on Cost Recovery Arrangements and Legal Changes.’ (For DECISION) (CLEAR)

SECAS presented an update on the DESNZ Consultation ‘Further Engagement on Cost Recovery Arrangements and Legal Changes,’ and noted DESNZ are requesting consultation on its minded position to recover costs via DCC Fixed Charges on a GB-wide basis. SECAS sought confirmation that CTG Members agreed individual SEC Parties were best placed to respond independently to the consultation, noting the nature of the questions, and that no CTG response was required.

The CTG **AGREED** no CTG response to the consultation is required.

## 6. Sub-Committee Chair Updates (For Information) (GREEN)

The TAG, OPSG, TABASC and SSC-SMKI Chairs advised there were no further Sub-Committee updates relevant to the 4G programme beyond those discussed under the UIT update. The CTG **NOTED** the update.

## 7. CTG Overall Transition Plan (OTP) Update (For Decision) (AMBER)

The Chair presented changes to the CTG Overall Transition Plan (OTP) and advised changes incorporated outcomes from the two Energy Suppliers focussed readiness sessions and the latest JIP milestones, as well as input from DCC, DESNZ and Ofgem. Engage noted an updated Plan on a Page would be presented to CTG in May following the baselining of the OTP.

The CTG **AGREED** to baseline the Draft OTP as version 1.7.

## 8. CTG Risks and Issues Register – monthly update (For Decision) (RED)

The CTG **NOTED** changes made to the Risks and Issues Register and **AGREED** to the changes and baselining of the draft as v13.0.

## 9. CTG Terms of Reference (For Decision) (CLEAR)

SECAS presented the updated Terms of Reference (ToR), following a review of the ToR to include SMETS1 End of Life within the scope of CTG and other general updates. The CTG **NOTED** the CTG’s role will need to be considered in future with respect to DCC’s Future Connectivity Strategy and that this is expected to be considered by SEC Panel in due course. The CTG **ENDORSED** Version 1.1 of the ToR to be submitted to the SEC Panel for approval at the next SEC Panel meeting.

## 10. Asset Life Brief Preliminary Findings Paper (AMBER)

SECAS presented the Asset Life Brief Final findings for the modelled scenarios and noted the options that are likely to provide the most benefit in reducing the expected incurrence of Premature Replacement Charges (PRC).

The CTG **NOTED** the findings presented and **AGREED** to close the Asset Life project.

## 11. AOB (CLEAR)

### 4G Programme Baseline Margin Project Performance Adjustment

SECAS advised the 4G Programme Baseline Margin Project Performance Adjustment Survey would be distributed to CTG Members post SECAS’ Party Engagement Team circulating the Survey to participants on 8 April 2024, and noted participants would have until the week of 10 May 2024 to complete the Survey.

### SEC Customer Satisfaction Survey

SECAS advised SEC Parties are invited to participate in the annual SEC Customer Satisfaction Survey, and advised participation is through providing consent by filling out the [online Consent Form](#) by Close of Business on Wednesday 17 April 2024.

#### CTG Materials

SECAS advised they were in the process of updating the CTG General MS Teams Channel to facilitate better access to CTG artefacts based on feedback from CTG Members and **AGREED** to notify CTG Members once changes were finalised.

The CTG **NOTED** the updates.

**Next Meeting Date: 20 May 2024.**